

EXEC-2009-010054

REPUBLICAN LEADER

MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
APPROPRIATIONS
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

June 2, 2009

Ms. Elizabeth Nolan
Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Energy
Forrestal Building, Room 7B138
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585-0800

Dear Ms. Nolan:

I write on behalf of Mayor Jim Brown of Franklin, Kentucky, who has contacted me regarding ZAP Motor Manufacturing's application for funding through the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program. I would appreciate your review and response to my constituent's questions and concerns. Specifically, Mayor Brown would welcome guidance on how to best communicate the City of Franklin's support for this project to the Department of Energy.

I have enclosed a copy of Mayor Brown's correspondence for your information. Please direct any inquiries and all relevant information to Allison Thompson in my Washington, D.C. office.

Thank you for your time and assistance. I will look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,



MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/at

FEDERAL BUILDING
241 EAST MAIN STREET
ROOM 102
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101
(270) 781-1673

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(859) 578-0188

771 CORPORATE DRIVE
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LEXINGTON, KY 40503
(859) 224-8286

300 SOUTH MAIN
SUITE 310
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(606) 864-2026

601 WEST BROADWAY
SUITE 630
LOUISVILLE, KY 40202
(502) 582-6304

PROFESSIONAL ARTS BUILDING
2320 BROADWAY
SUITE 100
PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 442-4554

Jim Brown
Mayor

Hal W. Toomey
City Manager

Wm. Scott Crabtree
City Attorney



09 MAY 21 PH 1:15
City Commission
Jamie Powell
Wendell Stewart
Henry Stone
Herbert S. Williams

May 19th, 2009

Senator Mitch McConnell
361-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell,

This is to urgently request your immediate help as the U.S. Department of Energy nears its decisions regarding the loan applications for the breakthrough production of the electric car.

As you are well aware, we in Franklin could be hosting this new era of transportation, if the USDOE selects ZAP Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky, Inc. From Bowling Green to Nashville, this region is extremely optimistic about the ZAP electric car, and with good reason. If the ZAP loan application is funded, and combined with the private financing that has been committed, this would fundamentally change our economy, our future and our lives.

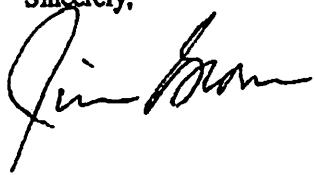
Our understanding is that the ZAP application to the DOE is "substantially complete" and now moves to the next phase of review, so we need your support in specific ways. You could help us directly with the Energy Secretary by finding out the exact timeline for the decision, and particularly if there is anything we can do to show our enthusiasm, or to provide added information about the advantages we offer to ZAP in this greater community.

ZAP, of course, has proven models in use around the world. We know for certain that the corporate financial model is sound, solid and favorable. In addition to putting hundreds of paychecks into our economy to benefit our families, ZAP would draw top automotive management as well as national, if not global, attention.

On behalf of our united, committed leadership, please do whatever is possible to speak to Secretary Chu in order to advise us of how best to proceed.

With great appreciation,

Sincerely,



Jim Brown, Mayor
City of Franklin

MITCH McCONNELL
KENTUCKY

361-A RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1702
(202) 224-2541

EXEC-2009-013212
8/11/2009

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE

APPROPRIATIONS
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate

July 31, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

I write once again to express my support for the application submitted by ZAP, Inc. for funding under the Department of Energy's Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program.

I understand that ZAP, Inc. currently seeks funds to construct a new \$84 million manufacturing facility in Franklin, Kentucky that will produce electric vehicles and new fuel-efficient transportation technologies. Although they were not selected for the first round of loan commitments announced by the Department, the company desires to be included in future rounds of funding.

According to the Kentucky Economic Development Cabinet, ZAP's new North American manufacturing plant could create 4,000 new full-time jobs for residents of the Commonwealth. I hope you will realize the importance of such job creation to Kentucky and give fair consideration to the application.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/at

EXEC-2009-012303

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

We are writing to express our support for the full consideration of the loan guarantee application submitted to the Department of Energy by Tessera Solar for its Western Ranch utility-scale solar power plant in Texas using Stirling Energy Systems' SunCatcher Power System developed at Sandia National Laboratories.

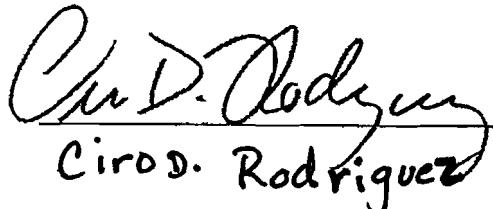
The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included a temporary loan program for renewable energy projects that could provide up to \$80 billion in federal loan guarantees that can be rapidly deployed. Congress provided this funding in order to create jobs, and encourage the deployment of emerging technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance our nation's energy security.

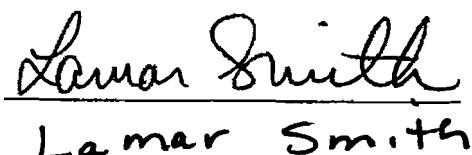
Texas is uniquely prepared to offer an American-led solution that meets these important objectives. Texas has a climate that allows such groundbreaking solar technologies to operate at optimum effectiveness, and is working to enact aggressive legislation to encourage the deployment of renewable energy. Tessera Solar's project will be located in rural west Texas and the construction of this solar power plant will create hundreds of new jobs at a time when they are desperately needed in these communities.

Technology for this project was developed through an effective collaboration involving Stirling Energy Systems and Tessera Solar, American automotive companies, and the Department of Energy. This project creates a unique partnership between a renewable energy company and automotive equipment manufacturers. It will serve as an example of how the clean energy sector is helping those industries hardest hit by the current economic downturn to advance in new, innovative directions.

This project represents the kind of pioneering work that is being developed in the field of renewable energy while also providing valuable economic development for the State of Texas. We strongly urge the Department of Energy to provide this project with the support that it requires.

Sincerely,


Ciro D. Rodriguez


Lamar Smith

The Her

Gene Green

Henry Cuelar

Henry Cuelar

Charles A. Gonzalez

Charles A. Gonzalez

Sheila Jackson Lee

Sheila Jackson Lee

Al Green

AL Green

Attached is a copy of a grant letter of support for Tessera Solar to Secretary Chu signed by Congressman Rodriguez and 6 other Texas Delegation members. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Robin Lloyd
Legislative Assistant
Congressman Ciro Rodriguez (TX-23)
2351 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
P: (202) 225-4511
F: (202) 225-2237
robin.lloyd@mail.house.gov

Sign up for Congressman Rodriguez's e-newsletter at <http://www.rodriguez.house.gov>



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

April 8, 2009

The Honorable Cliff Stearns
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Stearns:

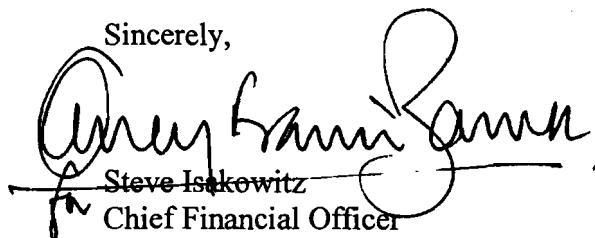
Thank you for your March 16, 2009, letter to Secretary Chu regarding your support of the application of NPE/INEOS Bio under XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 for a federal loan guarantee for its planned commercial scale biorefinery project. The letter has been referred to me for reply.

During the application review period, the Department is not at liberty to discuss individual applications due to the sensitivity of the application process.

Let me assure you that the Department is committed to managing the Loan Guarantee Program (LGP) carefully to maintain the integrity of the LGP as well as to promote the objectives of the Title XVII program while protecting the American taxpayer. The LGP will continue to move as quickly as possible, yet in a deliberate fashion, while ensuring the technical and fiscal soundness of the program.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Kathy Peery, in the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-2794.

Sincerely,


Steve Isakowitz
Chief Financial Officer



Printed with soy ink on recycled paper

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

December 17, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We are writing to bring to your attention several loan guarantee applications submitted to the Department of Energy for funding under section 1705 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that will support advanced clean energy projects in the State of Michigan.

The State of Michigan, through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), has developed an aggressive strategy to diversify our economy through investments in growth sectors that build on the state's strengths in advanced manufacturing, research and development, and engineering and design. One of these sectors is alternative energy and energy efficiency.

To that end, the MEDC has pursued initiatives to establish, grow and sustain alternative energy clusters in six targeted industries, including advanced energy storage, wind turbine manufacturing, and solar and photovoltaic technology. These efforts leverage investments of the private sector, universities and national laboratories, as well as state and local government.

This model was successfully demonstrated in the area of advanced battery technology, and we greatly appreciate the Department of Energy's recognition of these highly focused efforts with its significant investment in Michigan to support domestic advanced battery and electric vehicle manufacturing

The funding made available for the Department of Energy's loan guarantee program under Section 1705 of the ARRA is designed to help leading companies access credit and make significant investments in various clean energy sectors, including solar, energy storage, and wind. Because the loan guarantee program parallels our state's strategy to advance key energy sectors, we want to highlight several key Michigan opportunities for partnerships under this program, including –

The Honorable Steven Chu

Page 2

- Suniva, Inc. - This application includes manufacture of high-efficiency solar panels with a \$250 million investment in Saginaw County that will create 500 jobs and lead to annual PV production with the capacity to power 100,000 homes.
- United Solar Ovonic - This application includes upgrade of six manufacturing lines at existing facilities in Michigan to begin production of higher-efficiency rooftop photovoltaic cells, resulting in the creation of 880 jobs in Michigan.
- Xtreme Power Solutions - This application includes manufacture of energy storage systems to support up to 10,000 MW of renewable power globally and, along with Clairvoyant Energy, redevelopment of Ford's Wixom Plant into one of the world's largest renewable energy parks, creating 3,000 direct jobs.
- Clairvoyant Energy - This application includes manufacture and production of up to 2.5 million photovoltaic cells annually and, along with Xtreme Power Solutions, redevelopment of the Ford Wixom Plant, creating an additional 1,000 direct jobs.

Each of these applicants has recently submitted a Part II application, consistent with the requirements of the loan guarantee program. We believe these applications are worthy of serious consideration by the Department of Energy.

Mr. Secretary, thank you again for your efforts to promote the development of clean energy in Michigan and across the country. We hope to continue working with you and help Michigan lead in advancing solutions that will create jobs, protect the environment, and strengthen our nation's energy security.

With every good wish,

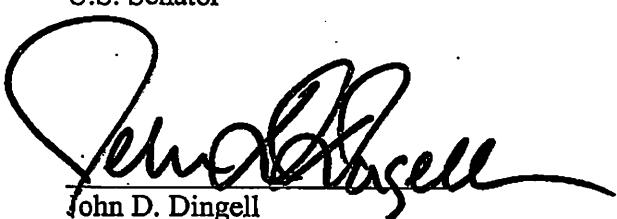
Sincerely yours,



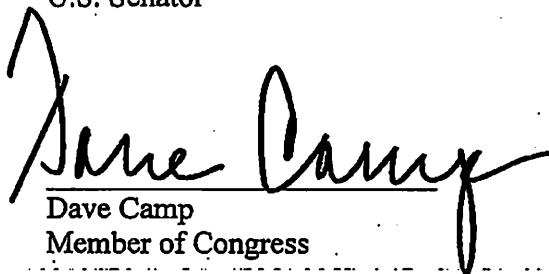
Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senator



Carl Levin
U.S. Senator

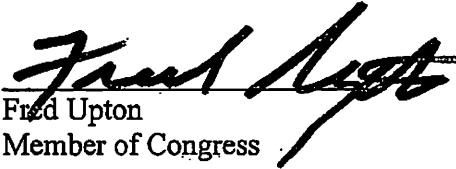


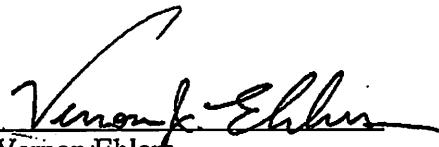
John D. Dingell
Member of Congress



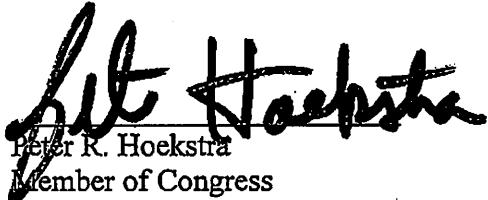
Dave Camp
Member of Congress

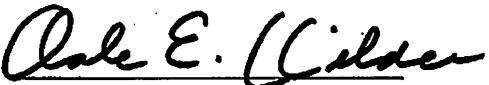
The Honorable Steven Chu
Page 3


Fred Upton
Member of Congress


Vernon Ehlers
Member of Congress


Sander Levin
Member of Congress

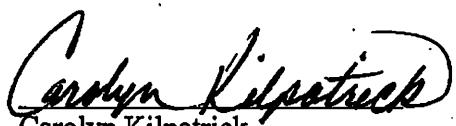

Peter R. Hoekstra
Member of Congress


Dale Kildee
Member of Congress


Thaddeus McCotter
Member of Congress

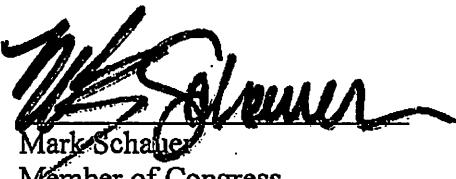

Bart Stupak
Member of Congress


Candice Miller
Member of Congress


Carolyn Kilpatrick
Member of Congress


Mike Rogers
Member of Congress


Gary Peters
Member of Congress


Mark Schauer
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 1, 2010

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As members of the Michigan delegation, we write to express our support for the prompt completion of consideration of loan applications that several Michigan-based automakers and component suppliers have filed under the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program (ATVM), which was established by section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA). These applications include those submitted by Chrysler and General Motors.

As you know, the purpose of the ATVM program is to provide loans for manufacturers and suppliers to retool factories in the U.S. to build high-fuel economy vehicles, and to perform the engineering integration necessary to incorporate new technology into these vehicles. As originally conceived, the ATVM program was intended to reach both original equipment manufacturers and component suppliers, both of which play a critical role in delivering the advanced vehicle technologies necessary to meet the demands for increased fuel economy performance.

Since the ATVM program was established, the need has only increased. In 2007, EISA set a goal that would require carmakers to increase fuel economy by 40 percent by the year 2020, and a 2009 agreement between stakeholders in the industry, the Administration and the State of California accelerates that requirement to model year 2016. As a result, both manufacturers and suppliers must accelerate their plans to improve fuel economy immediately, and the manufacturers' need for the ATVM loans is even more urgent.

Applications made by companies based in the State of Michigan will help fulfill the promise of the ATVM program. According to April 2010 estimates of the Center for Automotive Research, the automotive industry (including original equipment manufacturers and component suppliers) supported 1,130,977 direct, indirect, or expenditure-induced jobs in the State of Michigan. With the wealth of manufacturing infrastructure, highly educated engineering talent, and highly skilled workforce in the State, Michigan companies are uniquely positioned to lead the way in the transition to production of advanced technology vehicles and in development of advanced manufacturing technologies. These companies also have a strong track record of offering vehicles and components at prices that average Americans can afford. As a result, the fuel economy improvement achieved by these technologies will be incorporated into vehicles of all sizes and will have a significant environmental impact.

Maintaining and building America's manufacturing base is at the heart of the ATVM program. For America's auto industry to continue its global leadership into the 21st century, we must foster the American manufacture of fuel-efficient vehicles for the mass market. With these considerations in mind, we urge you to proceed expeditiously to complete action on the loan applications submitted by Michigan companies to the Department of Energy.

We look forward to your response with an update on the status of the program, including an assessment of whether additional resources are required or changes are needed to ensure the program addresses the purposes for which it was originally conceived.

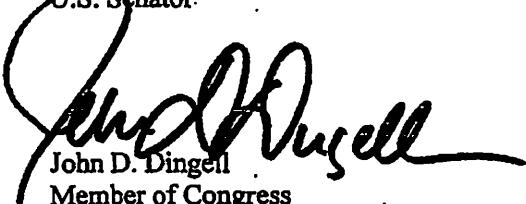
Sincerely



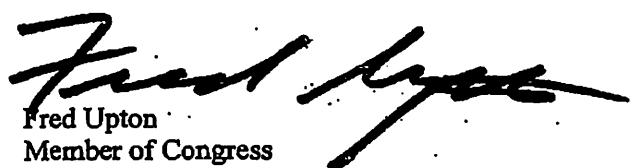
Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senator



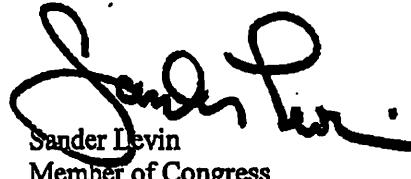
Carl Levin
U.S. Senator



John D. Dingell
Member of Congress



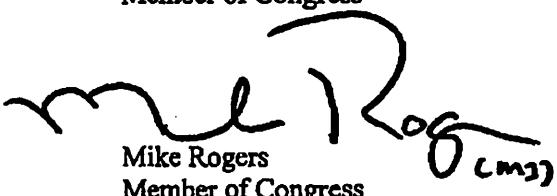
Fred Upton
Member of Congress



Sander Levin
Member of Congress



Gary Peters
Member of Congress



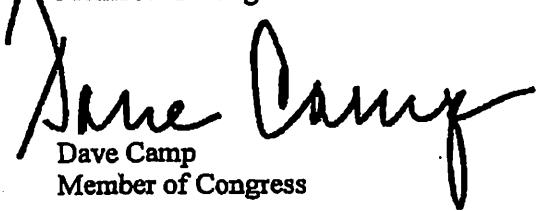
Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



Carolyn C. Kilpatrick
Member of Congress



Mark Schauer
Member of Congress



Dave Camp
Member of Congress

T. McCotter

Thaddeus McCotter
Member of Congress

Dale E. Kildee

Dale Kildee
Member of Congress

Bart Stupak

Bart Stupak
Member of Congress

Pete Hoekstra

Peter Hoekstra
Member of Congress

Candace Miller

Candace Miller
Member of Congress

Vernon Ehlers

Vernon Ehlers
Member of Congress

John Conyers

John Conyers
Member of Congress

11/19/2009

Spec

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 30, 2009

Dr. Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

As members of the Michigan Congressional delegation, we are grateful for your efforts to revive our American auto industry and for the creation of programs to improve technology and fuel efficiency. We are writing in support of an application under consideration in the Advanced Technology Vehicle Loan Program (ATVM) which fits both Administration priorities and the needs of the American auto industry.

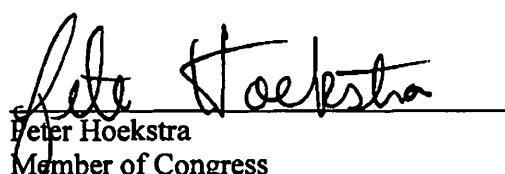
As you know, EcoMotors International currently has a \$207 million loan application pending for the development of a manufacturing site in Livonia, Michigan to produce approximately 300,000 innovative opposed-piston-opposed-cylinder (OPOC) engines. According to EcoMotors, the OPOC engine, with 50 percent fewer parts, offers fuel economy savings in excess of 50 percent, and can be manufactured within the existing supply chain. Importantly, the approval of this request would lead to the creation of an estimated 3,500 direct and indirect jobs in Michigan. These new jobs are essential to our struggling state where the 15.3 percent unemployment rate is the highest in the nation and is predicted to continue to rise.

EcoMotors has already undergone eight months of review by the Department of Energy (DOE) and the company was found eligible under the ATVM program on a separate application. As the ATVM program was designed to encourage the manufacturing of advanced technology vehicles, this is precisely the type of project DOE should be supporting. We encourage DOE to approve this manufacturing application which will help to revitalize the American auto industry and give Michigan hope for the future. Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

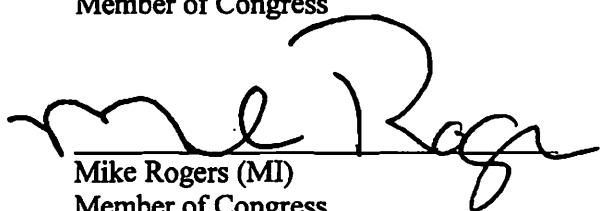
Sincerely,



Thaddeus G. McCotter
Member of Congress


Pete Hoekstra

Peter Hoekstra
Member of Congress


Mike Rogers

Mike Rogers (MI)
Member of Congress


Fred Upton

Fred Upton
Member of Congress

cc: Lachlan Seward, Director, Advanced Technology Vehicle Loan (ATVM) Program

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Exec. 2009 - 007741

DAVID VITTER
LOUISIANA

DEPUTY WHIP

Armed Services

Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Environment and Public Works

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 22, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C.
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
SUITE SH-516
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
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FAX: (202) 228-5061

BATON ROUGE
858 CONVENTION STREET
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802
(225) 383-4331
FAX: (225) 383-4952

Website with E-Mail Access:
vitter.senate.gov

The Honorable Steven Chu
Department of Energy
Forrestal Building, Room 7A-257
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Chu:

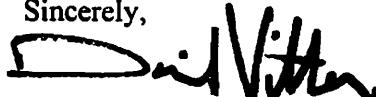
I am writing to ask for prompt consideration of the loan guarantee that Red River Environmental Products, a subsidiary of ADA Carbon Solutions, has submitted under the Title XVII (Incentives for Innovative Technology) loan guarantee program established under the Energy Policy Act of 2005. ADA Environmental Services is building an activated carbon plant in Red River Parish, LA. The company submitted a Title XVII loan guarantee application on February 26, 2009.

The ADA project could help meet the growing demand for activated carbon created by mercury regulation in 16 states, as well as possible federal regulation of mercury emissions in coal powered electric plans. As a member of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee and the Committee on Environment and Public Works, I understand the importance of accessing the domestic energy resources we have, like coal, in an environmentally conscious manner. Potentially, this project could help achieve both goals.

The project is expected to provide a significant economic impact in an area of Louisiana that is in desperate need of quality manufacturing jobs. The plant will create not only initial construction jobs, but also 70-80 full time manufacturing jobs once completed.

I urge the Department to give full consideration to ADA Environmental Services' request for a Title XVII federal loan guarantee and take into consideration the potential economic and environmental benefits of the project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David Vitter
United States Senate

ACADIANA	CENTRAL LOUISIANA	NORTHEAST LOUISIANA	NORTHWEST LOUISIANA	SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA	SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA
800 LAFAYETTE STREET SUITE 1200 LAFAYETTE, LA 70501 (337) 262-6898 FAX: (337) 262-6373	2230 SOUTH MACARTHUR DRIVE SUITE 4 ALEXANDRIA, LA 71301 (318)448-0169 FAX: (318) 448-0189	1217 NORTH 19TH STREET MONROE, LA 71201 (318)3258120 FAX: (318)325-9165	920 PIERREMONTE ROAD SUITE 113 SHREVEPORT, LA 71106 (318) 861-0437 FAX: (318) 8614865	2800 VETERANS BOULEVARD SUITE 201 MONROE, LA 70402 (318) 389-2733 FAX: (504) 589-2607	3221 RYAN STREET SUITE E LAKE CHARLES, LA 70601 (337) 436-0453 FAX: (337) 436-3163

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1804

July 1, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

We write to express our strong support of V Vehicle Company (VVC) and their introduction of an affordable, fuel-efficient, and low-emissions vehicle into the U.S. market. The company has submitted two applications under the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Loan program and we respectfully request that you evaluate these applications as quickly as possible.

VVC's automobile is called the "V Car" and will be sold through a national retail chain for under \$10,000. We understand that this price point will make the vehicle available to a wide range of customers who would otherwise be unable to purchase an advanced technology vehicle. The V Car is estimated to save about 1.1 billion gallons of gasoline and reduce carbon emissions by approximately 22 billion pounds through 2015.

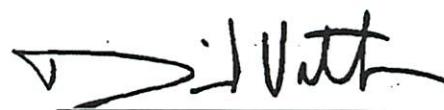
This vehicle would serve as a catalyst for job creation. VVC is locating its first regional assembly plant in the State of Louisiana and as a demonstration of the State's confidence in the company Louisiana has committed \$87 million to re-equip a former General Motors facility, \$12.8 million in employee training services and an estimated \$33.8 million of tax abatements. The addition of this assembly plant will bring more than 1,400 direct jobs to Northeast Louisiana. These high-tech jobs will bring an enormous and much needed boost to the regional economy.

The timing of DOE's decision is very important. In order for VVC to maintain on its current schedule, it is important for a decision to be made on the company's ATVM applications by October of this year.

For these reasons, we strongly urge you give this application every appropriate consideration during the review. Further, we would appreciate any information you may now provide regarding the status of this application.

Sincerely,


Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator


David Vitter
United States Senator

59
11/24/2009

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 17, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C., 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

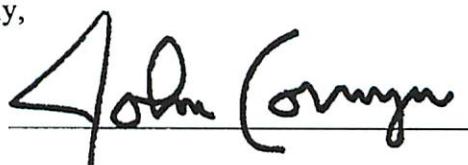
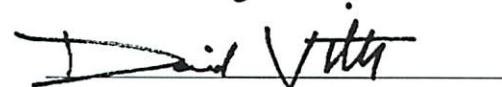
As the Department of Energy begins to review applications for the department's loan guarantee program (FOA-0000140), we would like to bring to your attention a recent application submitted by Diamond Green Fuels, LLC. We ask for your consideration, as its approval would not only have great economic impact on Louisiana and Texas, it would expedite the commercialization of innovative renewable diesel.

Diamond is a partnership between Darling International, Inc. (Darling) of Irving, Texas and the Valero Energy Corporation (Valero), based in San Antonio. Valero is North America's largest independent petroleum refiner and marketer, and Darling is the country's leading provider of rendering, recycling and recovery solutions for our nation's food industry. Combined, these two companies have the technology, expertise and infrastructure to convert animal fats and used-cooking oils into renewable diesel. The joint venture between these two companies would result in the construction of a renewable diesel facility at St. Charles Parish, Louisiana, which would convert non-edible animal fat and used-cooking oil into renewable diesel. It is important to note that this project is ready for construction and can be operational by mid 2012 with appropriate funding.

This facility will have the capability of producing 135 million gallons a year of renewable diesel. In addition to commercializing renewable diesel, it will create 40 full time jobs as well as over 500 construction jobs. Funding from the loan guarantee program can play an important role in its construction. Diamond's proposal presents an opportunity to increase our nation's energy security and provides tremendous environmental benefits.

We appreciate your consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 22, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

The Honorable Peter Orszag
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Secretary and Director Orszag:

We write regarding recent challenges posed to the loan guarantee program authorized by Title XVII of the 2005 Energy Policy Act. Specifically, we refer to the credit subsidy cost associated with issuing loan guarantees and loan volume. We would appreciate clarification on these matters.

Our primary concern is the issue of credit subsidy costs, and the continuing lack of certainty about what those costs will be for nuclear projects. We recognize that the Department of Energy (DOE) calculates subsidy cost using the Credit Subsidy Calculator developed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and that OMB must approve those calculations. We would appreciate an explanation of why it is taking so long to come to reasonable closure on the issue of subsidy cost. We would also appreciate an explanation of the basis for developing those subsidy costs, particularly key input assumptions to the Calculator like default probability and recovery rate. We are concerned that inappropriate assumptions may produce subsidy costs that are significantly higher than necessary to protect the taxpayer's interest, and which would preclude creditworthy projects from using the loan guarantee program.

On loan volume, we are concerned that the \$18.5 billion in loan volume currently authorized for nuclear power projects will not cover the four projects with which DOE is currently negotiating, which represent approximately \$38 billion in loan volume. Even assuming some level of co-financing, it does not appear that \$18.5 billion will be enough to cover the four lead projects, and it is certainly not enough to support other creditworthy nuclear projects that have filed loan guarantee applications. Additionally, we are concerned that the \$2 billion for front-end enrichment facilities does not meet the demonstrated need, which we believe to be \$6 billion. We urge you to request sufficient additional loan volume in your Fiscal Year 2011 budget to provide a solid financing platform for the new nuclear plants our nation clearly needs.

We are also concerned by the budget scoring associated with any additional loan volume. For several years now, CBO has scored loan volume at one percent of face value. This places the loan guarantee program and the Congress in an untenable situation. If the Administration proposes additional loan volume for any eligible technology, and fails to include the one-percent score in its proposed budget, the Congress is faced with appropriating that amount and reducing expenditures on other important programs. This is an unacceptable outcome. We urge DOE and OMB to take ownership of this issue and work with the Congressional Budget Office to address it.

We believe these questions and concerns can be handled best through a staff briefing, at which the appropriate Executive Branch staff provide the clarifications and explanations requested, and afford our staff the opportunity to pose questions and test assumptions. Please contact Luke Tomanelli with Senator Crapo's office at the earliest opportunity to schedule that briefing. He can be reached at (202)224-6142.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Crapo George V. Voinovich

Lamar Alexander John Barrasso

Jan Schakowsky David Vitter
Jim Cooper Jeff Bond

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 2, 2010

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

We are writing to express our strong support for V-Vehicle Company (VVC) and its resubmission of a loan application under the Department of Energy's Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing (ATVM) program.

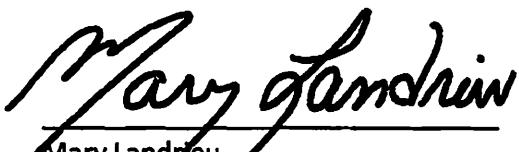
VVC has the ability to transform communities in Louisiana by bringing critical economic growth and green jobs to our state and region. The company plans to re-equip a former Guide Corp. plant in Monroe, LA that was shuttered in 2006 and establish a production facility that would bring approximately 1,400 direct jobs and an additional 1,800 indirect jobs to Northeast Louisiana. The State of Louisiana and local communities have already demonstrated their commitment to the project by offering the company \$82 million in grants, \$12.8 million in employee training services, and an estimated \$33.8 million in tax abatements to support the project.

VVC's automobile, the "V Car", is a low cost, fuel efficient vehicle that will meet aggressive emissions standards and the highest safety ratings. Every year, each V Car will save over 5,700 pounds (2.9 tons) of CO2 and 280 gallons of gas relative to the U.S. fleet average. And, the V Car will be a cost effective option for a range of customers, including working Americans who would not otherwise be able to afford an advanced technology vehicle.

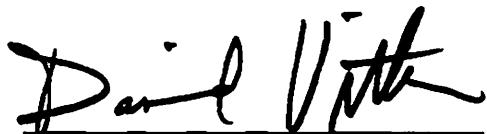
Over the past several months, VVC has continued moving ahead on the V Car's path to production and recently unveiled a drivable prototype. Many of us have had the opportunity to drive the V Car, and have been impressed by its quality and design. There is no doubt that VVC is on track to making an affordable, fuel efficient car a reality.

We strongly urge you to give VVC's application expedited consideration so that the benefits of this project can quickly be realized in our state and nation. We look forward to working with you to make this project a reality and bring 1,400 new jobs to Louisiana.

Sincerely,



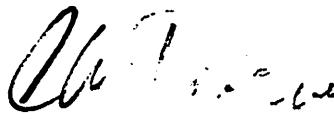
Mary Landrieu
United States Senator



David Vitter
United States Senator



Rodney Alexander
Member of Congress



Charles Boustany M.D.
Member of Congress



Charlie Melancon
Member of Congress



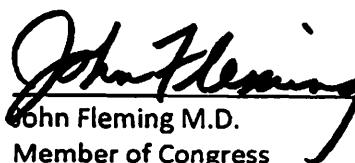
Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



Anh "Joseph" Cao
Member of Congress



Bill Cassidy M.D.
Member of Congress



John Fleming M.D.
Member of Congress

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 16, 2010

Secretary Steven Chu
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

As you are aware, the U.S. is dependent upon China for more than 97 percent of our rare earth supply, including 100 percent of rare earth metals and 80 percent of rare earth magnets needed for critical clean energy technologies, including electric vehicles, wind turbines, and compact fluorescent light bulbs. China's economic growth has resulted in greater consumption of its own rare earth resources, which has resulted in fewer exports. According to projections, the U.S. and the rest of the world could face rare earth shortages as early as 2011.

Such a supply crisis could jeopardize our ability to deploy key clean energy technologies and reach our broader energy policy objectives. It also raises serious national security concerns. In fact, a recent report by the Government Accountability Office found that rare earths are responsible for the "functionality" of equipment in many defense technologies, and it concluded that it is "difficult to replace [rare earths] without losing performance."

We were pleased to see the Department's recently announced intent to develop a rare earths strategic plan that will focus on increasing supply, encouraging recycling, and investigating substitution strategies. However, we believe that more immediate action may be necessary to avert near-term rare earth shortages.

As such, we urge you and your agency to expeditiously consider any application under the Loan Guarantee Program (LGP) that would help to rebuild the domestic rare earth supply chain and manufacturing sector. This supply chain should include several downstream steps, including: creation of high purity rare earth oxides; production of rare earth metals; fabrication of rare earth alloys; and the manufacture of permanent magnets, advanced batteries, and other rare earth components of clean energy technologies.

These early stages of the supply chain have obvious strategic value, and rebuilding them here in the U.S. will provide a catalyst for domestic manufacturing job growth. Rare earths play an important role in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, because a long list of key renewable energy and clean energy technologies rely on them. It makes good sense that the United States would seek to establish a domestic manufacturing base for these important resources.

We applaud your commitment to developing a long-term strategy to ensure an adequate supply of rare earths, and we look forward to reviewing the Department's plan. In the interim, we urge you to consider utilizing the LGP to accelerate the redevelopment of these critical manufacturing capabilities and to make certain that our nation's economic, energy, and national security are not jeopardized by a rare earth supply shortage.

Sincerely,



Marvin Lieberman
Mark Udall
John Barrasso
David Vitter
Daryl Bryan
Mary Landrieu
Howard Berman
Mike Crapo
Jan Schakowsky

Barbara Boxer
Paul Sarbanes
Jim Inhofe
George V. Voinovich
Eugene Basye
Bob Lighthizer
John Cornyn
Michael B. Enzi

EXC-2010-018097

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 21, 2010

The Honorable Steven Chu
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

We are writing to reiterate our strong support for Next Autoworks Company's loan application under the Department of Energy's Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing (ATVM) program and inquire about the status of the application.

Next Autoworks resubmitted a revised ATVM application in May 2010 that was almost immediately declared substantially complete and expeditiously reviewed for technical and financial merit. We appreciate the Department's work to move the application through several critical stage-gates over the past several months.

Next Autoworks has the ability to transform communities in Louisiana by bringing critical economic growth and jobs to our state and region. As you know, the company plans to re-equip a former Guide Corp plant in Monroe, LA that was shuttered in 2006 and establish a production facility that would bring approximately 1,400 direct jobs and an additional 1,800 indirect jobs to Northeast Louisiana. In addition, the project will create thousands of jobs at supplier facilities across the U.S. The State of Louisiana and local communities have already demonstrated their commitment to the project by offering the company \$82 million in grants, \$12.8 in employee training services, and an estimated \$33.8 million in tax abatements to support the project.

Every day that Next Autoworks' application is delayed is another day that workers cannot be hired to begin work at the Monroe site and help mitigate our state's continued high unemployment rate. Moreover, continued delay in the financing for the project will also negatively impact the vehicle's launch timing and this Administration's goals for fuel economy. DOE's own environmental assessment of this project, issued in October 2010, states that Next Autoworks' vehicle will have a significant positive impact on fleet fuel economy and the environment by providing a high quality, affordable "green" car to the American market.

We strongly urge you to continue to expedite Next Autoworks' application. We would request an update on the status of the application and expected timeframe for moving forward before the end of the year.

Sincerely,



Mary Landrieu
US SENATOR



David Vitter
US SENATOR



Rodney Alexander
MEMBER OF CONGRESS